

Serial No.: 10/777,343

Docket No.: ECV-5622CON

Preliminary Amendment dated June 21, 2005

Responsive to Office Action dated April 5, 2005

REMARKS

Prior to the present Office Action, claims 1-29 were pending. Claim 17 has been canceled, and claims 30-42 have been added. Therefore, claims 1-16 and 18-42 remain pending.

Applicants presume that the Examiner will be able to locate the parent file and review the remaining two references from the IDS filed February 12, 2004. In the event the parent file remains missing, please do not hesitate to notify the undersigned and the two references will be located and couriered to the Office.

Claims 5, 11, 12, 17, 19, 20, and 26 are objected to for various informalities. These have been corrected as indicated above, including the improper dependencies which created most of the antecedent problems.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that claims 2-12, 14-15, 17-18, and 21-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and with all informalities corrected. Accordingly, these claims are now rewritten in independent form as indicated by the table below that tracks new and old claim numbers.

New claim number	Old claim number(s)
1	1 + 2*
2	2*
3-15	3-15
16	16 + 17
18-29	18-29
30	1 + 9
31-32	10-11
33	1 + 14
34	1 + 15
35	16 + 22
36	16 + 23

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37	16 + 24
38-39	25-26
40	16 + 27
41	16 + 28
42	16 + 29

* Claim 1 has been amended to include that portion of claim 2 that is believed necessary to distinguish the cited reference, U.S. Patent No. 6,210,432 to Solem, et al. In particular, Solem, et al. does not disclose or suggest using an attachment device to physically connect the annuloplasty ring to the annulus.

Accordingly, Applicants assert that claims 1-16 and 18-42 are now in condition for allowance, and such action is solicited. If there is any further hindrance to allowance of the claims, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 21, 2005


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